

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.



CLUB CALL: W4DW



REPEATER: W4DW/R 146.04/64

OCTOBER 1982

ISSUE 151

LEADING EDGE

SHERMAN STARNES
W4TZU

The fifth flight of the European Space Agency's ARIANE rocket took place on September 10 and ended by diving into the Atlantic fourteen minutes after launch. It carried with it two European satellites. This is the second of five flights to end in disaster for the payloads, one of which was AMSAT's phase 3A spacecraft. The phase 3B satellite is still scheduled aboard the seventh ARIANE flight next year.

A Florida cable TV operator, Cablesat General, has petitioned the FCC for permission to place two geosynchronous satellites in orbit for domestic service and to include an amateur service transponder aboard each. The transponders would have a 10 MHz. bandwidth with the uplink in the 5.65 to 5.67 GHz. range and the downlink at 3.40 to 3.41 GHz. The OSCAR transponders would be donated to a non-profit organization which would in turn assign operational responsibilities to the ARRL. Dave Sumner, League General Manager says that power generation at 5 GHz. is a big challenge for the amateur community but that technology advances in the five years intervening before the proposed launch will reduce this to a major challenge.

The amateurs at Stanford Research In-

stitute are still modifying the 150 foot dish for operation at two meters in preparation for the attempt to regain control of OSCAR 9. You can only hear a 1200-Hz. tone on 145.825 MHz. FM when the spacecraft is above our horizon.

OSCAR 8 is operating normally and OSCAR 7 is again being heard weakly on 435 MHz. by stations here and in Europe.

RS-3 through RS-8 continue in highly stable orbits and provide satellite operators with long range opportunities.

The Phase 3B spacecraft is in Germany for final tests before being shipped to the launch facility in French Guiana. At this time it is uncertain what effect the latest ARIANE failure will have on the Phase 3B launch schedule. AMSAT officials are confident of a successful flight despite ARIANE's 40 percent failure rate. They also point out that waiting for a suitable U.S. launch could delay the Phase 3B until late in the decade. The Phase 3C spacecraft is nearing completion and is a candidate for a 1984 launch.





MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on September 1, 1982, in the West Community Room at Crabtree Valley Mall. After coffee, doughnuts and fellowship, the meeting was called to order by President "Doc" Cobb, WHYZX, and members and guests were welcomed. The roster was signed by 39 members and 5 guests. There were 14 guests at the meeting.

Doc reminded the members that, at the end of the year, some vacancies will occur in the club offices. A Nominating Committee has been appointed to make recommendations for replacement of the officers. The Committee is Chuck Littlewood, K4HF; Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW; and Jim Peeler, WA4YOM. The officers to be replaced are Treasurer and Vice President. A round of applause was heard for Bill Feehan, WB4EOV, who has served as Treasurer for 2 terms of 2 years each. Nominations will be at the October meeting; elections will be in November and installation in December.

Doc announced that WH4DW is back on the air and sounds great. This is due to Billy Edwards, K4BWC, and Walt Short, N4SW. Billy announced that the operational manual for the repeater and the auto patch will be finalized this month. Control codes will be issued later.

Bob Johnson, AA4L, reported the next QCWA meeting will be October 3rd at the Maysville Hamfest. Novice classes start September 13th at McKimmon Center for 12 sessions. Bob stated he is willing to hold small classes for members who need help in certain areas of radio theory.

Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW, reminded the members that the Red Cross needs amateurs help at the NC State Fair. The list is needed by October 1st.

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, asked the members for input on members to serve the club. There is consideration for a new position, Director of Membership. According to the By-Laws, the Treasurer is also in charge of membership. The Committee feels these responsibilities need to be split into two positions. Nominations for these and others will be announced at the next meeting. Members are also urged to make nominations in any and all categories.

Chuck also reminded members about renewal of their

HAMFEST

RSS

BY --
Bruce Eggers
WA9NEW

Not much new to report. W4PRQ called to talk about food service. Still have a couple of questions on that subject to resolve at this month's Director's meeting.

Still have lots of good openings for people to worry about tables, clean-up, club table, ARRL booth, PA, Hospitality, talk-in, etc., etc. Sign up now while the pickin's are good!

amateur licenses. After a license has expired, an amateur has a one year grace period and can retain his call. One to 5 years, retain the license but will get a new call. Over 5 years, he must start as a Novice again.

The 1983 Auto License renewal forms are being sent out. The NC Legislature has decided that all special licenses will also be on the staggered system. The deadline for these forms is October 1st.

The guest speaker was Colleen Shropshire, WD5FAS, Public Service Specialist in the Norfolk FCC office. After some interesting information on various subjects pertaining to amateurs and the FCC, Colleen answered many questions from the members. It was a most interesting and informative program for all members.

The door prize, an ARRL Handbook, was won by Jack Williams, KB4RW. The meeting was then adjourned.

Marty Silver, NY4H
Secretary, RARS

TO SERVE, HAMS

Amateur Radio has traditionally been on the forefront of development in our society; in technology, in opening new bands, in new modes of communication. As we in WCARS enter a new era with our club repeater, let us first remember the basic reason we hams are allowed the exclusive use of so much of the limited and very valuable radio spectrum. We have the privilege, and, please never forget it is a privilege, of using the ham bands because hams in the past have served the public. If hams in the future are to enjoy this privilege, we must now do something to secure the privilege.

What has this to do with the autopatch? Ask yourself, "Why do we even go to the expense of having an autopatch?" Surely it is not just so we can impress the neighborhood children with our ability to ring their telephone with the fancy box we carry on our hips like cowboys with fancy shooting irons. The autopatch is there for--and only for---emergency communications! The autopatch is there so we can serve our community. Remember when Jerry VeHaun was in Haywood County and needed to call his office? That is why the autopatch is on the club machine.

Does this mean we can't use it for other calls? No, because we need to make tests of our equipment to be sure it will be ready when needed. So, use it for trivial calls, NO BUSINESS THOUGH, and be sure you know how to use it, be sure your dialing pad is right, and be sure the autopatch is right. But, don't forget, it is there for emergencies. Why else would John go up the mountain in the rain to reset it? So it will be ready!

Each club member then is to be an "Honorary Control Operator!" This means YOU are to serve....i.e., assist others who are trying to use the autopatch; help them make their call, help them to test their rig, help them learn to use the autopatch, and above all--we are here to serve; not to harrass, belittle, humiliate,



SURPRISE!

SURPRISE!

SURPRISE!

(Guess who's E.C. for Wake County!)

by wa9new

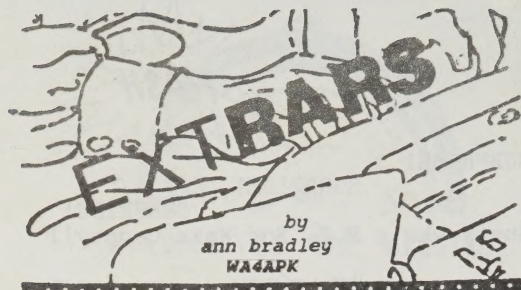
Nope, not me. Public Service Director is enough. But as a follow-up with Marvin Heller, Communications Director for the City of Raleigh, who was our guest at the September meeting and will be our speaker for the October meeting, I went down to the Municipal Building on Thursday, Sept. 9. The purpose of the meeting was to review Amateur capabilities with City and County officials, looking for ways we might be of help.

We hadn't gotten ten minutes into the give and take when Russ Capps, Director of the Wake County Emergency Preparedness Agency, advised me that he had just recently been contacted by a Reed Whitten. Reed had been saying much the same kind of words and a future meeting had tentatively been set. They already knew a bunch of 'key words'. The S.E.T. is coming up in October, the E.C. is a county-wide appointment, etc. I knew at that point that Reed had been doing his thing.

It was later that evening that I was able to get ahold of Reed. We had a nice chat. He's just recently accepted the appointment and had laid plans to visit RARS at our October meeting. He's AB4W of Cary. He'll be with us at our next meeting. It sounds to me like Reed's got a good handle on the situation and I've promised the full cooperation of RARS. Come on out, meet our new E.C., and be ready to support him.

chastize, criticize, or discipline others. If there is a problem you can't solve by helping, DON'T HURT. Let it pass and notify the trustee, the appointed control operators, or one of the club officers. Let them handle any and all problems. Let us serve hams and the public to be worthy of our privileges.

---Ken Carter, W4FEP



One of the few ambitious souls this summer was Corbett Blackman, KA4ZZO, who went up to Norfolk and upgraded to Tech. Good show!

Frank Pankotay was another of the "doers." Just learned that he received his DXCC Award. Congratulations, Frank, and by the way, we're all glad you're better.

Didn't get to Shelby this year, but understand from WB4MCU, that it was the biggest crowd ever, with good representation from the Raleigh bunch. Jack said crowds of folks, lots of goodies, and best of all--no rain!

Kudos to the Cary Club. Their field day record was 10,110 points--3301 contacts. That's probably at least second place. Watch November QST for official word. Congratulations, Cary, you've earned it!

Our beloved Jesse, W4JG, is now home from his stay at Rex Hospital and recuperating from a disk problem that kept him there for a couple of weeks. Hope you get better every day, Jesse. We love you.

Only recently learned that Marty, NY4H, earned the "W-100-N" award from World Radio, in CW no less. That's 100 nations. I understand it's harder than DXCC. Just great, Marty.

Welcome to new members of both August and Sept. Bert Keller, N4HLM; Roger Moates, W3ECR; Corbett Blackman, KA4ZZO; Howard Passel, KB4UY; Al Nowakowski, W4VP. Apologies for overlooking Bill Coleman, KA4DAP, some time ago.

Hope there'll be no objection to my using EXTRARS to express a personal thought. A couple of weeks ago, I walked into a room at Swains and thought I had stumbled onto a specially called RARS meeting--but the cake and balloons said "Ann." It was the "Happiest Birthday" I've ever had. I feel at least a year younger and very wealthy in the most valuable commodity of all - friendship. Thank you all, and especially La Verne!

P.S. as in public service

Bruce Eggers
W4NEW

The next biggy is State Fair '82! As noted last month, we'll again help the Red Cross at the Fairgrounds First-Aid station by manning (or should I say 'operating') their radios for them. Frees up their first-aid trained people for primary duty.

Signed up to help so far are KA4ZNR, N4HBG, W6MVZ, WB4EOV, WB4DRJ, W4JUG, WA4YOM, W4YZX, KA4ULW, KY4W, KA4ULZ, WB4DCM, N4FPB and K4NYV. If each pulls one shift, WE'RE 40% of the way there. Still need lots of help! Call now, 779-0266, that's 779-0266. Our operators are standing by!

All volunteers are expected to attend an orientation session, either at the Fairgrounds on Sunday the 10th at 3PM or at the Red Cross Chapter house on Monday the 11th at 7PM. Refreshments will be served.

All volunteers will receive a free pass to the Fair Grounds for the day you serve and a parking pass that will let you park on the grounds, inside gate 4.

THE TRADING POST

For Sale: Yaesu FT-101F with 500 Hz CW filter, spare finals and drivers. Factory Repair manual, set of extender boards, Mobile hand mike, Built in RF Processor. AC 110-230 v -- DC 12 v. \$600--Excellent Condition (expect DC supply) Willing to trade for FT-7 or Argonaut plus Cash--Howard Passel, KB4UY--851-6818

LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT

100% --- I did.
90% --- I will.
80% --- I can.
70% --- I think I can.
60% --- I might.
50% --- I think I might.
40% --- What is it?
30% --- I wish I could.
20% --- I don't know how.
10% --- I won't.

* * * THE GAIN GAME * * *

With the passage of the Autumnal equinox on September 23, the DX bands are undergoing their usual fall changes. Forty and Eighty meters are coming alive and propagation shifts are being noted on twenty and fifteen meters. Especially noted for its poor performance lately, ten meters is expected a dying gasp at some reasonable openings for the next couple of months.

This means that as the upcoming contest and DX season opens, many hams in this area are busy getting ready. In my case, the 80 and 360 meter antennas must go back up after being taken down for the summer. This is always a chore as I want to try out new ideas and at the same time use the tried and proven designs that have worked in the past.

One new antenna I am going to try is a top loaded 5/8 wave vertical for 80 meters. Am in the design and construction stage now and should have it up and running in a month or so. In the meantime will continue to use the inverted vee works so well into Europe.

Propagation on all the HF bands has been disappointing this Summer. 80 and 40 have been as noisy I have ever heard and with this sunspot cycle on its waning edge, 10 and 15 are bummers. That has left everyone on 20 or, like most of us, just listening a lot and waiting for the cool weather to come to our rescue.

Hot weather does some good for some amateur propagation, however. It is at this time of year and exactly during the peak of the summer that the UHF guys do their atmospheric ducting experiments. July 30 was just such a day in California when the Hawaii beacon on 432 MHz was heard by W6PJA. He signaled the alert and there was a mad scramble to crank up the 1296 MHz gear to listen for the beacon on that frequency. The KH6HME signal was found and copied 5 x 9 over a 2500 mile path. A distance over twice that of any previous trial. Unfortunately, Paul was in California at the time and although he was willing to immediately fly home to make the contact two-way, the duct fizzled out and the report is only one-way.

Now, to the point of this report. The antennas used for this remarkable achievement are 25 element loop Yagis! Yep, that's right 25 element, and they stack 4 of them vertically. The result is a whopping 25 dBi gain. N6CA says that the Yagi's are preferred over the equivalent 6 ft dish because of less wind loading and a more predictable pattern. How about that. The Hawaii antennas are located at the 8200 ft level on Mauna Loa, a pretty respectable height for an antenna!

Every year the DX bulletin conducts a survey of hams to find out the most needed countries. This year, as usual, China, BY came out number one. It seems that 85% of the DXers answering the poll needed it. Word has it that VE7BC is making great progress in obtaining equipment for several new BY stations in the immediate future. If all goes as planned there should be six, that's right, SIX ssb stations operating by next Summer. That should put a dent in one of the most needed countries.

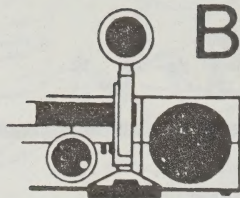
By the way, the ARRL DX advisory committee now has divisional representatives. The Roanoke Division member is John Farrott, W4FRU. If you have any input to this committee, route it through John.

For the RARS members who are interested in computers: There is a Computer users net that meets at 1:00 pm on both Sat. and Sun. on 7.228 MHz. The group has lots of good information concerning the TRS 80, VIC 20, Color Com., and the ZX-81. If you have a computer and want information about how to use it in ham radio, check in, they will be glad to have you.

Also on 40 meters, if you find yourself with insomnia some night, is the triple-H net. It meets at 0830Z on 7.335 This net has had some pretty good DX as well as lots of states. Its a relaxed net and they welcome newcomers, but the time!

Well, we've rambled over lots of different topics. I think I'll go turn on the rig, maybe 15 is open. Ha!

73, see you at the RARS meeting,
Doc, W4YZX



BERT'S BEAT

with
BERT BAILEY, W4FMN

MEASURING UP, OR DOWN?????????????

Consumers are making manufacturers aware that a buck is a buck. Read the tabloids and see that \$107M suits are hitting Northrup, \$40M vs NCR and stockholders are battling Datapoint for examples. Fraud, misrepresentation and breach of warranty involving a turn-key computer system sold to small businesses by Northrup are worth \$107M to customers suing Northrup. A Portland department store chain have begun a lawsuit charging NCR with fraud and breach of warranty involving an "error-prone" accounting and accounts receivable hardware/software system. Datapoint has issued a denial of all charges by its stockholders that it misrepresented financial statements and engaged in warehousing and brokering schemes to inflate sales figures to raise the trading price of Datapoint securities. So what lessons are to be gained from these sorry episodes? Well, to me the fact that so many similar incidents are taking place points up the fact that computer controls are just about non-existent. Why are so many major computer manufacturers getting in hot water? For one, maybe ole dad is not keeping a close enough eye on Junior and the kids. When a whiz kid is caught cheating with computer programs and hardware, he is often considered a necessary evil and his unlawful acts are winked at or even praised. Yet mastery of an art, even at a young age, is not a benefit to mankind if it is misused. Thomas Alva Edison was as much a genius as any of the modern computer experts. But he never once considered using his talents to abuse his fellows, older or younger and he certainly easily could have -- it just wasn't in his nature. For another, when microcomputers first came out, consumers for the

first time could tell manufacturers what consumers wanted not what the wheeling and dealing manufacturers wanted.

This turn of events probably really grated on the nerves of IBM, TI, and all the other big builders of computers. Big business had been so used to building what they wanted rather than what consumers wanted, they just pouted and fumed when the worm turned. This being a free country -- so far anyway -- I can voice my opinions and not be shot. This is my estimated opinion of the situation. Kids today are not being educated in moral strength and big business has for too long adopted "Let 'em eat cake" attitudes. I have always wanted a small car with top gas mileage, even when I was a youngster in college. But what did Detroit tell me I wanted? A big gas guzzler with lots of chrome and expensive repair bills. Perhaps more people should remember that the USA has a government of the people, by the people and for the people. The moral to my entire pitch is this: When kids and appliance operators try to move in and eliminate CW from the requirements for a ham licence, buck up the moral strength of hams in general and remind FCC that amateur regulations are for hams and not appliance operators or other BTOs. Nuff said.

TIME TO RUN AGAIN*****

Shortly after you get this rag, yet another running event will have been conducted and supplemented by the RARS. That is, the USMC Half Marathon run at 0900 hours on Saty 2 October. Ole reliable Jarhead #1, Bill of WB4CCA fame was the head honcho of RARS. As I write this, some people are already dropping out, -- and they are not even in the race! -- so to list all helpers will not induce future accuracy. However, it is safe to say that most of those who helped last year will be in this one. WB4DCM, Charly, will put the RARS loudspeakers to good use. Some of the stalwarts expected at the two mile points include Bob AA4L, Mike WB4LXR, Joe WA4ENZ, and Lynn K4NYV. There will be others. The whole affair will be updated in the next issue of the RARS Newsletter. 73s.

NET NEWS



THE JFK NET

BY Tom Graham, WB4WII
Net Manager

Earlier this year in this column we discussed, first, the organization and purpose of the JFK Net, and second, something of its history. Now let's look at the net today, and its plans for the future.

In spite of the terrible propagation conditions throughout most of the summer, the net experienced a successful season. Check-ins averaged close to 28 per session. Traffic averaged over five per session. This is for the first eight months of this year. So far in September, things are improving greatly, with over 35 check-ins several evenings.

The net is trying to line up stations with two meter capabilities to check in to cover more or less out of the way places. From personal experience we have found this to be an effective way to areas not heard on HF.

Back in the summer, more or less as a trial, a one page "Newsletter" was mailed to 100 members. It received an enthusiastic reception. Now it is planned to attempt to make it a quarterly, with items of interest to the members. It is hoped it will be a place members can list any equipment they want to sell, trade, or buy, or express an opinion. It is to be by and for the members.

New net officers were elected in September, Directors are elected for a three-year term, staggered so that two directors are new each year. Net manager and secretary-Treasurer are elected yearly. The officers are: Manager, WB4WII; Secretary-Treasurer, WB4WII; Directors; WB4DAR, KA4KJI, WA4PID (Asst. Mgr) WA4CUD, NA4ALE, and N4CKK. The Board meets regularly on the first Thursday night of each month.

The JFK net is on 3923 Khz. seven nights a week at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to join us.

ODE TO MARS

There once was a member of RARS
Whose career Army brother wore stars.
Though miles apart,
'Twas a matter of heart,
They stayed in close touch VIA MARS.

(Have you given thought to supporting our military personnel overseas by actively participating in one of the various service's Military Affiliate Radio Systems? For more info, see/call KO4P, W4FMN, WA9NEW, or any of dozens of other active hams in the local area. Maybe they're on to something good!)

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Let's try it one more time! The guest speaker for the October meeting will be Marvin Heller, who is in charge of communications for the City of Raleigh. Mr. Heller will tell us how the city handles emergency communications and explain how we Hams can fit in. This should be a very interesting and valuable program

HAVE A
SAFE AND
SCARY
HALLOWEEN

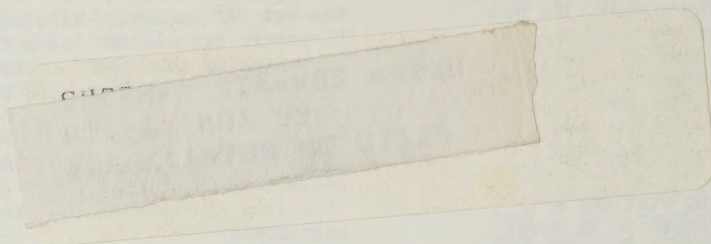


THE TRANSISTOR. (Overheard in the Bell Telephone Labs). "All right, which one of you clods contaminated the Germanium with the Arsenic?"

ARNS Newsletter

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.
P. O. BOX 17124
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27619

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Raleigh, N.C.
Permit No. 1731



RARS meets each first Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the
West Community Room of Crabtree Valley Mall.

Calendar

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|---|--|
| Oct. 3 - Maysville, N.C. Hamfest | Oct. 20 - RARS Advisory Board Meeting |
| Oct. 6 - Regular RARS Meeting | Oct. 23, 24 - Tn. State ARRL Conv.
Chattanooga, Tn. |
| Oct. 9 - Asheville, N.C. Autumnfest | Oct. 30, 31 - CQ Worldwide DX Contest |
| Oct. 9, 10 - Va. State ARRL Conv. &
Va. Beach, Va. | Nov. 6, 7 - ARRL Sweepstakes, CW |
| Oct. 10 - RARS News Copy Deadline | Nov. 7 - Concord, N.C. Hamfest |
| Oct. 16, 17 - ARRL Simulated Emer. Test | Nov. 27, 28 - Greensboro, N.C. Hamfest |
| Dec. 8 - FCC Exams, Greensboro, N.C. | |